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Renauldi; *a*, entire plant; *b*, the same enlarged; *c*, lower leaf; *d, d, d*, upper leaves; *e*, basal areolation; *f*, areolation of the upper part; *g*, transverse section of a leaf, in the upper part; *h*, young capsule; *i*, capsule, old and empty; *j*, portion of the peristome; *k*, calyptra.—*C. Funaria calcarea* var. *occidentalis*. *a*, entire plant; *b*, leaf.

PLATE VII.—*A. Orthotrichum Hendersoni*. *a*, entire plant; *b*, leaf; *c*, capsule; *d*, the same, old and empty; *e*, stoma; *f*, portion of the peristome.—*B. Orthotrichum ulotæforme*. *a*, entire plant; *b, b*, leaves; *c*, basal areolation; *d*, areolation in the upper part; *e*, capsule; *f*, the same, old and empty; *g*, stoma; *h*, portion of the peristome; *i*, calyptra.—*C. Bryum Hendersoni*. *a*, entire plant; *b*, leaves; *c*, upper part of a leaf; *d*, areolation of the apex; *e*, capsule.

Errata in preceding notice:

Page 96, line 5 below, instead of *branches*, read *branchlets*.

Page 96, line 6 below, instead of *nate*, read *long*.

Page 100, line 2, instead of *is*, read *closely*.

Plate XIII, C, add to the figure most to the right: *d. 240*.

BRIEFER ARTICLES.

Poisonous action of *Clathrus columnatus*.—The odor of fully grown specimens of the order Phalloideæ is so repulsive that the question as to their poisonous character when eaten by men has not often been the subject of experiment. Most writers previous to Krombholz took it for granted that the common stink-horn, *Phallus impudicus*, was poisonous. The experiments of Krombholz on the canary bird, the tortoise, the dog, and on man, showed, however, that the fungus was not poisonous in those cases. Harzer apparently followed the statements of Krombholz, and more recently Goeppert says of *Phallus impudicus* that it can be eaten without harm, although he does not state the grounds of his belief. The lattice-fungus, *Clathrus cancellatus*, which has an odor as disagreeable as that of the rest of the order, is known to have proved poisonous in at least one case; that of a young girl who ate a small piece of the fungus, and was seized with violent convulsions followed by loss of speech and a deep sleep lasting 52 hours.

On October 31, 1889, I received a letter from Prof. Gerald McCarthy of Raleigh, N. C., saying that a number of hogs in that State had been killed by eating a fungus of which he wrote as follows: "It grows in patches in oak woods and openings and is greedily sought after and eaten by hogs who are generally killed by it within 12 or 15 hours." On the arrival of the specimen it proved to be one of the Phalloideæ, but the species could not be determined from the material sent and application

was then made for more of the poisonous fungus to Mr. G. W. Lawrence, of Fayetteville, N. C., and from the material sent by him the species was recognized as *Clathrus columnatus* Bosc. As the fungus is common to the Southern States, it would be interesting to know whether the hogs of other States possess the same fondness for this most extraordinary diet.

In this connection I should like to call attention to an admirable memoir on Phalloideæ¹ by Dr. Ed. Fischer of Berne. He considers *C. columnatus* Bosc. to be merely a variety of *C. cancellatus* Tournef. He also places *C. triscapus* Mont., which occurs in Florida, under the same species as var. *Brasiliensis*. *Simblum rubescens* Gerard together with var. *Kansensis* Cragin are merged in *Simblum sphærocephalum* Schlecht. *Phallus duplicatus* Bosc, *P. Dæmonum* (Rumpf), *P. collaris* Cragin and *Hymenophallus togatus* are referred to *Dictyophora phalloides* Desvaux, thus bringing all the indusiate forms of the United States under one species. The synonymy of our species of *Mutinus* is still perplexing, for the original descriptions and type specimens are not sufficient to show clearly the limits of several species.—W. G. FARLOW, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Chlorophyll in the embryo.—The GAZETTE has mentioned Dr. Campbell's note on chlorophyll in the embryo of *Celastrus*. Other examples may be found in *Tilia Americana* and *Ipomœa purpurea*. I have given some attention to the latter during the last five months. In its earliest stages the embryo is white. The chlorophyll appears as soon as the first traces of the cotyledons can be recognized by the eye in the cross-section of the seed. It is abundant in the cotyledons while the pod is developing. When the fruit is ripe and the pod begins to dry then the color diminishes and becomes a light yellow in the shrunken seed which drops to the ground at the time of dehiscence. If the pods and their contents be buried in earth while yet green and immature they promptly send up thrifty plants which come to flower and produce fertile seeds, thus shortening the life-circle of the plant and giving it no "resting stage." I learn that some gardeners have taken advantage of this fact in burying "green peas" in the pod instead of the seed of a previous year, thus obtaining a more speedy result. I would be glad to know if observers in more southern localities find that *Ipomœa*, when favorably situated, produces its new seedlings by a natural or accidental burial of the pod without its arrival at maturity.—C. B. ATWELL, *Evanston, Ill.*

EDITORIAL.

PROBABLY no more earnest and critical notice of the BOTANICAL GAZETTE has appeared in any extra-English publication than that in a late number of *Flora* by its able and scholarly editor, Prof. Dr. Goebel. He gives as his reason for writing the notice that the GAZETTE "affords an

¹Untersuchungen zur vergleichenden Entwicklungsgeschichte und Systematik der Phalloideen, *Denkschrift Schweiz. Naturf. Gesell.* Band 32. I.